

# Annual Stockholders Meeting



*A block-long of red shirts go through the middle of Lincoln Nebraska with proxies to give to Ivan and the Board of Directors*

financial publications and are seated in a special section. This year, however, only the local newspaper sent a photographer to cover the meeting; but what a nice job he did. He interviewed union members from the AFL-CIO, IBEW Local 2222, CWA retirees and Members of CWA Local 7470 from Lincoln. Our issues were covered in depth and we (not Verizon) were the feature story the next day. He was also nice enough to send us the pictures that he took and sent on to all the financial publications. You can access a complete photo journal of the meeting by logging on to [www.yahooofinance.com](http://www.yahooofinance.com) and enter VZ in the search bar. This will bring you to news about Verizon and you can zero in to search for the shareholders meeting.

Prior to the meeting, all union members (active and retired) met with members of our CWA host Local 7470 and everyone was given a red shirt to wear to the meeting. 1103 LMC President Pam Harrison spoke to the assembly pointing out that Verizon retirees have not had a pension increase for 18 years. The purpose of the 1103 LMC and every other CWA retirees' club in the country for attending the annual shareholders meetings is to keep retirement issues on the record by supporting proxy proposals to increase our pensions. Since the Supreme Court ruled that unions cannot negotiate for their retirees, we retirees must make our issues known and we must join together and fight for

our hard earned benefits. This may sound like a broken record to some, but pension benefits are our issue. We all worked for and paid for these benefits. They are ours to have; not Ivan Seidenberg's to deny.

Mr. Seidenberg reported to the shareholders that Verizon was in wonderful financial condition, that our stock was up 30% over last year, that our customers were very happy and that everything was just wonderful at Verizon. His rosy assessment was debated when he opened the question and answer portion of the meeting. He was challenged by Pam Harrison to do what was right and not just follow the herd of corporations ignoring the need for pension increases for retirees, pointing out that there is plenty of money in the retirement fund. Other issues brought to the floor included the sale of the rural New England communications network to FairPoint, a company loaded with debt and inexperienced in the telecommunications field. There were CWA members from Massachusetts and New Hampshire on hand to point out that those communities will be severely impacted by the sale to FairPoint, and if it can happen in the Northeast, it can happen anywhere.

Card Check was the major issue brought up by the AFL-CIO representatives present. They wanted Ivan and the Board to comply with the rules of card check and not interfere with employee choice of union representation. CWA Local 7470 President voiced the nationwide concern



*CWA retirees and Members leave hotel to go to meeting*



*LMC Vice President Jeanette Spoor, President Pam Harrison and Ann Roughley with boxes of Proxy votes to bring to shareholder meeting*

that Verizon management would concentrate on the wireless business and ignore the ever present need for landline maintenance and growing FiOS demands by the current customers. But as we all know from past history, all that matters to Ivan et al is profits, profits and profits. Serving the community is a non-issue for them. All too often it seems that our Union fights harder to keep Verizon customers satisfied and keep them Verizon customers than does Verizon.

On behalf of the 1103 LMC and all retirees across the country, we want to thank everyone for sending in your proxies. It was wonderful bringing all of them with us to add to the thousands of others collected. Don't ever forget how important your proxy vote is to retiree issues. It is our way of voicing our NO CONFIDENCE in the CEO and the Board of Directors. Even though many members cannot get to the shareholders meetings, we do and we make sure our issues are voiced loud and clear. Keep up the good work.

**ANN ROUGHLEY, Asst. to Pres.  
1103 Life Members Club**